THE EXECUTION OF Mr. Rob. Foulks, LATE MINISTER OF Stanton-Lacy In *SHROPSHIRE.*

With ſome Account of his moſt Penitent Behaviour, Confeſſion, laſt Speech, *&c.*

Let him that ſtandeth take heed leſt he fall.

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THE EXECUTION OF Mr. Rob. Foulks,

Late Minister of *Stanton-Lacy* IN *SHROPSHIRE.*

MR. *Robert Foulks* received Sentence of Death at the last Sessions, for Killing a new-born Child in *November* last, in *York*-buildings in the *Strand*, from whence the same Morning he went out of Town: But after the Discovery of the Murdered Infant, being pursued,

was apprehended in the Country, and was brought up to Trial as aforesaid. The Fact was too apparent, nor did he after Conviction offer to deny it, but rather made it his business to give Glory to God, by an open Confession of his Sins, and declaration of his Sorrow and Self-abhorrency for them.

And that he might the more effectually accomplish this, Authority was graciously pleased to allow him some longer time than commonly is granted, to fit himself for Death.

These few days so charitably indulged, he failed not to improve, but husbanded them with Diligence to the best advantage. Confession of his Sins, with all their Aggravations, bewailing them with bitter Tears, and begging Forgiveness, as well for the Guilt as Scandal of them, was his continual Imployment.

He was visited by several of the most Eminent, Learned, and Godly Divines about the City, who at divers times came to give him their Advice, and afford him their Christian Offices and Prayers; which he received with all Thankfulness, so that they departed much satisfied.

Let not therefore either the right or left-hand Enemies Triumph, or cast Reflections and Reproaches

proaches on this occasion;

...Crimine ab uno
Disce omnes...

is but Poetical Logic; the Charity of Divinity will never allow any to Brand or Stigmatize a whole Party for the Lapses of any single Member, when the Body gives no Connivence or Approbation to such Excesses. The Doctrine and Discipline, the Orders and Canons of the Church of *England*, every way fitted for promotion and encouragement of Holiness of Life, Sobriety, Chastity, and all kind of Christian Vertues, and practical Piety, are sufficient to justifie her to all the considerate World, against such ignominious scandals and undeserved Obloquies. And as her Principles are the soundest and purest, so, through Gods grace, she is furnisht with as Learned and Godly a Clergy in general, as any Nation under Heaven; able both by their Doctrine, and by their exemplary Lives and Conversations, to put to silence such malicious Cavillers.

As this poor Gentleman, led away by the Temptations of Satan, and his own evil Nature, for want of keeping a due watch over his heart, and turning away his eyes from vanity, came to fall, like *David*, into those blackest of sins, Adultery and Murder: So we have good grounds from his late

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Behaviour, in the judgment of Charity, to hope and believe, that he has imitated that Royal Penitent too, in contrition and hearty sorrow for those Crying crimes; and that by the Grace of God, and Merits of our Blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, he may be washed and purged from those, and all other pollutions; and cloathed with Robes of the Lambs Righteousness, may be admitted into the blissful Regions of everlasting Glory, where nothing impure may enter.

As for the particularities of his Deportment, Penitent Carriage, and Religious Conversation, since the time of his Condemnation to that of his Dissolution, all that visited him (amongst whom are many Worthy Divines, as aforesaid) can bear testimony: And farther, that he might glorifie God in his Death, whom he had dishonoured so much in his Life, endeavouring, if possible, to make his Repentance and acknowledgment of his sins, as publick as the scandal of them had been; he imploy'd the few moments he had to live, in writing down his Meditations, and giving a warning to sinners, by his sad, but remarkable Example, and directing several Letters to his Wife, Children, Parishioners, and other Friends; which being all compleated under his own hand, and delivered to very Worthy and Reverend persons, are to be made publick. A Work which (with the Divine Blessing) may prove of great use and advantage to Souls.

Some

Some few days before that of his Execution, he humbly received the Sacrament of the Lords Supper, and kept several private Fasts. The day before he ſuffer'd (being the Anniverſary Faſt and Humiliation for the horrid Murther of King *Charles* the Firſt of Bleſſed Memory) he was, at his own requeſt, ſolemnly prayed for in moſt of the Churches of *London* and *Weſtminſter*; and expreſſed great rejoycing in his Spirit, that his days were lengthned out ſo long in the land of the Living, contrary to his expectation, that he might have the opportunity of enjoying the publick Prayers of ſo many good Chriſtians.

On Friday the thirty firſt of *January*, $167\frac{8}{9}$. about ten of the clock in the forenoon, he was brought out of the Preſs-yard, and in a Coach conveyed to the place of Execution, where he made an excellent Confeſſion and Speech to the People; a Copy of which (having it ready written with his own hand) he there delivered to a Miniſter preſent, to be faithfully Printed with the reſt of his Papers, which are now in the Preſs, and within very few days will be made publick.

And ſo having prayed very affectionately, freely ſubmitted himſelf to the Execution of the Sentence.

His Corpse were brought back in a Coach, and that Evening decently (but privately) Interr'd at St. Gileses.

FINIS.